

Minutes

Certified Pilots Working Group



Department
of Transport
and Planning

Date: 15 September 2023

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting number: 2

Chair: **Ian Mond (IM)** – Manager, Heavy Vehicle Networks (DTP)

Standing members: **Joe Shields (JS)** – President, National Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (NPVDA)
Jim Davey (JD) – Vice President, National Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (NPVDA)
Jack Brooks (JB) – National Secretary, National Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (NPVDA)
Chris Barnett (CB) – Treasurer, National Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (NPVDA)
Brett Greer (BG) – Certified Pilot Victoria
Ben Atkinson (BA) – A/ Manager, Network permits (DTP)
Luther Cox (LC) – A/ Leader, Heavy Vehicle Productivity (DTP)
Jessica Woodruff (JW) – Heavy Vehicle Productivity Officer (DTP)
Jessica Marcela Lopez Bossa (JML) – Permit officer, Network permits (DTP)

Apologies: **Peter Roberts (PR)** - President, Australian Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (APVDA)
Eric Vickers (EV) – Secretary, Australian Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (APVDA)
Jim Prentice (JP) – Australian Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association (APVDA)
Nick Simpson (NS) – OSOM Group Leader
Jose Arredondo (JA) – NHVR Policy

Secretariat: **James Daniel (JD)** – Policy Officer, Heavy Vehicle Productivity (DTP)

Part	Item	Action	Presenter	Time
1.	Standing items			1:00-1:05
1.1.	Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and apologies (v)		IM	



Part	Item	Action	Presenter	Time
1.2.	Declaration of conflicts of interest (v) <i>No conflicts of interest were declared</i>	Declare	IM	
1.3.	Confirmation of previous minutes <i>The previous meeting minutes were confirmed to be true and accurate</i>	Approved	IM	
1.4.	Review of Action Register <i>Refer 'Outstanding Actions Summary' below</i>		IM	
2.	Specific items of business			1:05-1:20
	<p>Wig Wags</p> <p><i>IM discussed wig wag implementation and regional harmonization. Victoria's Vehicle Standards open to wig wag lights, but colour choice (amber vs. white) is a challenge.</i></p> <p><i>Noted historical use of white in Queensland and WA without clear documentation.</i></p> <p>LED Lights and Colours</p> <p><i>JB expressed concerns about pilot transitions between states due to varying wig wag colour standards.</i></p> <p><i>BG elaborated on the interchangeability of LED light colours and the challenges of quad-colour lights that can display multiple colours simultaneously.</i></p> <p><i>IM confirmed the decision to immediately adopt amber wig wags. However, the white version requires a trial period to evaluate its merits.</i></p> <p>White Wig Wag Trial</p> <p><i>IM advised pilot bodies to collaborate with DTP to establish a well-structured trial plan. This plan will encompass data collection and meticulous documentation.</i></p> <p><i>Pilot bodies are tasked with submitting a list of trial participants to DTP for review and approval.</i></p> <p><i>The selection of participants for the trial is still in progress. Upon selection, they will be provided with a letter of authority, permitting the use of white wig wags during the trial phase.</i></p> <p><i>Subsequent meetings to be scheduled to evaluate the data obtained from the trial. The aim is to derive insights and make informed decisions based on the evidence gathered.</i></p> <p>Sharing of Permits</p> <p><i>JS noted that since the NHVR introduced the pilot information sheet, more pilots are sharing their permits.</i></p> <p><i>The information sheet serves as a reference if individuals decline to show their permits.</i></p> <p><i>JS confirmed the effectiveness of this process, noting a significant increase in shared permits recently.</i></p>			
2.1.			IM	1:05-1:15
2.2.	<p>NHVR Update</p> <p><i>JA will provide update in next meeting on efforts of stakeholders and territories for harmonized policies and practices.</i></p>		IM	
3.	Other Business			1:20-1:55



Part	Item	Action	Presenter	Time
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3.1. Industry Updates

Traffic Control

JS expressed concerns about the risks of not having NHVR present during operations. JB stressed the importance of NHVR support, especially when escorting oversized loads at high speeds. IM proposed potential solutions like collaborating with social media platforms and the Traffic Management Centre (TMC).

All

Slowdowns

The discussion centred on the safety challenges posed by fast-moving traffic. JB questioned the viability of slowdowns and suggested alternatives. IM discussed the potential of collaborating with the TMC to regulate speed limits in specific zones. JS emphasized the need for infrastructure upgrades to remove the need for slowdowns.

Bridge Supervision

JB highlighted the need for regulatory powers for pilots, especially on two-lane roads. He shared insights from WA where pilots are trained to close bridges for oversized loads. IM expressed keen interest in understanding this training. JB emphasized the need for standardized training for highway safety.

Record of Movement

JS introduced logbooks from different states and expressed concerns about Victoria's current process. IM informed the group of a forthcoming review to create a comprehensive document aligning with Victoria's needs.

Agricultural Vehicles

The discussion shifted towards agricultural vehicles and the lack of certified pilots for harvesters and wide-load tractors. The attendees raised concerns about the agricultural industry's practices, which often involve minimal safety measures.

JS noted that some farms in Victoria have certified pilots, but this is not widespread.

IM explored the difficulties associated with regulating pilot certification within the agricultural sector.

JB discussed potential strategies to encourage small farms to adopt safer practices and pilot certification and addressed the need for a review of pilot certification requirements, with a specific focus on the agricultural sector.

IM emphasised the vital importance of comprehensive training and certification for all pilots.

IM acknowledged the necessity for future discussions on topics such as bridge supervision, safety concerns related to slowdowns, and the complexities of regulating pilot certification for agricultural vehicles.

The meeting concluded with an agreement on the need for further exploration of topics like bridge supervision, slowdowns, and pilot certification.

The group will work collaboratively and engage with relevant authorities, including NHVR, to find solutions.



Part	Item	Action	Presenter	Time
4.	Close			1:55 –2:00
4.1.	Date of next meeting (v) TBA	Note	JD	

Key 1: Key: (#) Paper circulated; (+) Paper to be tabled; (v) Verbal update.

Outstanding actions summary

Action Number	Agenda item	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1.0	2.1	Draft Plan for white Light trial	JB, JS	Next meeting	Open
2.0	2.1	Provide a Letter of Endorsement for Wigwags to DTP	JB, JS	Next meeting	Open
3.0	2.3	Update on Harmonisation	JA	Next Meeting	Open
4.0	3.1	Review gazetted loads document	JD	Next Meeting	Open
5.0	3.1	Discuss pilot vest with NHVR	JD	Next Meeting	Open
6.0	3.1	Review Pilot guidelines in Victoria	JD	Next Meeting	Open